

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1818 without my signature.

Providing appropriate training for the safe operation of snowmobiles is good for public safety, however, AB 1818 fails to specify the elements necessary to complete a training course as required in the bill. If a training course is to be mandated it is important that there is statewide consistency provided through a program developed with safety experts and state agencies responsible for recreation and transportation. In addition, the bill does not clearly identify an appropriate state agency to enforce safety training requirements.

This bill attempts to regulate those businesses that provide snowmobile rental opportunities to the public. Specifically, this bill would require rental companies to provide safety training courses to renters, and provide equipment such as helmets, flashlights and shovels to renters, require guides to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, and require adult supervision for persons under 16 years of age.

Although I am not signing this bill, I am directing the Department of Parks and Recreation to work with other appropriate state agencies to develop a program for safe snowmobiling to be offered to the public that is more comprehensive and enforceable by the state.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger